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May 12, 1999
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food (Docket No. 98N-1038)

Dear FDA Policy Maker:

I am writing to express my support for the recommendation made by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods. This statement reads:

"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

These labels must be clear, truthful and not misleading. The radura symbol, and specific statements such as "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be used. The word "pasteurization" is inappropriate, because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling. Also, the requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. Consumers have a permanent right to know how their food is processed.

Finally, I am requesting that you post all comments received on the Internet so that the public can be well informed regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

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